

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DLAZAR:PW

APPROVED BY ARA:WGBOWDLER

EB/OA/AN:WCOBB (SUBSTANCE)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 212146

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PAN AMERICAN SITUATION - STATE-OF-PLAY

REFERENCE: GUATEMALA 5102

1. SUMMARY: PANAM PRESSING FOR INCREASED USG INVOLVEMENT IN CURRENT SITUATION. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ARENALES WHO WILL DO WHAT HE CAN TO HELP FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO GUATEMALA OCTOBER 28. GOG AMBASSADOR ASENSIO CHOOSES ODD TIME TO RAISE MATTER OF AVIATECA'S MERIDA RUN WITH CAB. END SUMMARY.

2. FRANK LOY, PANAM SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, CALLED DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER THREE TIMES OCTOBER 25. IN FIRST CALL HE SET OUT LATEST POSITION GOG MINCOMMUNICATIONS AS REPORTED REFTEL AND STATED TIME HAD NOW COME FOR EMBASSY TO INTERVENE. LOY STATED HIS OPINION PANAM NOW HAS RUN OUT ITS STRING OF OPTIONS AND TIME HAS COME FOR EMBASSY TO EXPRESS QUOTE DEEP CONCERN UNQUOTE OVER GOG CHANGES IN POLICY. BOWDLER SUGGESTED LOY TRY TO CONTACT ARENALES IN NEW YORK BUT LOY REPLIED HE HAD BEEN TOLD ARENALES NO LONGER THERE. BOWDLER THEN PROMISED TO ASK CHARGE TO CON-
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TACT ARENALES IN GUATEMALA TO SEEK HIS ADVICE AND SUCH

SUPPORT AS HE MIGHT LEND.

3. IN SECOND CALL LOY ADVISED BOWDLER THAT SUBSEQUENT CHECK INDICATED ARENALES STILL IN NEW YORK AND URGED BOWDLER TO

CALL HIM. BOWDLER AGREED TO DO SO BUT ONLY IN TERMS OF EXPRESSING HOPE THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GOG AND PANAM COULD BE WORKED OUT DIRECTLY. BOWDLER AGAIN SUGGESTED LOY CONTACT ARENALES TO EXPLAIN PANAM POSITION AND PARTICULARLY TO EXPLAIN THAT BROWN'S REFERENCE TO CAB 213 ACTION, IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH ANZUETO, WAS NOT INTENDED AS A THREAT. LOY INDICATED HIS RELUCTANCE TO MAKE LATTER POINT.

4. IN FINAL CONVERSATION EVENING OF OCTOBER 25 LOY INFORMED BOWDLER HE WOULD MEET WITH ARENALES MORNING OF OCTOBER 26. LOY DOES NOT INTEND TO RAISE 213 QUESTION UNLESS ARENALES MENTIONS IT SINCE LOY FEARS ANY MENTION MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS A THREAT. LOY WILL CONTACT DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING THIS CONVERSATION. LOY AGAIN STRONGLY URGED EMBASSY INTERVENTION.

5. MEANWHILE BOWDLER ALSO SPOKE TO ARENALES IN NEW YORK. ARENALES INDICATED DELICACY OF SITUATION WHERE ONE MINISTER APPEARED TO BE ATTEMPTING TO INTRUDE INTO ANOTHER'S TERRITORY BUT STATED THAT, BECAUSE OF IMPLICATIONS FOR FOREIGN POLICY, HE THOUGHT HE HAD GROUNDS FOR INTERVENTION. HE AGREED TO ASSESS SITUATION IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS RETURN TO GUATEMALA OCTOBER 28 AND TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO BE HELPFUL. HE GAVE BOWDLER TO UNDERSTAND THAT HE THOUGHT ANZUETO WAS MISHANDLING SITUATION AND STATED HIS BELIEF, WHICH LOY ALSO HAD STATED, THAT JORGE SENN HAD THE EAR OF ANZUETO AND PRESIDENT ARANA SO THAT THE INFORMATION THEY WERE RECEIVING WAS ONE-SIDED AND POSSIBLY MISLEADING.

6. IN A POSSIBLY UNRELATED DEVELOPMENT AMBASSADOR ASENSIO CALLED ON CAB YESTERDAY TO INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS OF AVIATECA'S MERIDA RUN. WE SAY POSSIBLY UNRELATED BECAUSE ASENSIO, IN CONVERSATION OCTOBER 25 WITH BOWDLER, APPEARED UNAWARE OF CURRENT STATE-OF-PLAY IN PANAM SITUATION. CAB
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PROMISED SOME RESPONSE TODAY, OCTOBER 26, BUT WE DOUBT DECISION WILL BE FORTHCOMING WHILE CURRENT PANAM SITUATION PREVAILS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST CHARGE CONSULT ARENALES ON HIS RETURN, SEEK HIS ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION AND HIS ADVICE ON BEST NEXT STEPS. SPECIFICALLY YOU SHOULD ASK HIS VIEW ON WHETHER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ARANA MIGHT NOW BE

HELPFUL. IN GENERAL DEPARTMENT WOULD HOPE THAT STEPS
COULD BE TAKEN TO DE-ESCALATE EMOTIONAL INTENSITY OF
PRESENT SITUATION. DESIRABLE INTERIM STEP WOULD BE FOR
GOG TO ALLOW PANAM TO FLY ITS REVISED SCHEDULE AS ORIGI-
NALLY SUBMITTED, MINUS SAN PEDRO SULA RUN, WHILE PARTIES
DISCUSS POINTS OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM.

8. DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF
FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. KISSINGER

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